GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:522
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
NEW PETRO- CHEMICAL POLICY AND CONSUMPTION OF PLASTIC AND SYNTHETIC FIBRES
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the National Policy on petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce necessary incentives to boost private investment with petroleum, chemicals and petro-chemical investment regions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre in Kilogram in the country, year- wise and per capita consumption of these items;

(f) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to increase the per capita consumption of these items;

g) if so, the details thereof; and

h) the loss being caused to the environment due to this and the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE)

a) Yes sir.

b) The National Policy on petrochemicals is aimed at addressing issues relating to increase in investments, increase in production and consumption of petrochemical products, increasing the competitiveness of the industry, promotion of R & D and achieving environmentally sustainable growth.

c) and d) The Cabinet has recently approved the Policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR), and the same has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1 dated 4th April, 2007) and is also placed on the web site of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals viz: www.chemicals.nic.in The PCPIR is a specifically delineated investment region having an area of about 250 sq. kms. (with atleast 40% area earmarked for processing activities). This region would be a combination of production projects, public utilities, logistics, environmental protection, residential areas and administrative services. The purpose is to encourage global scale investment in petroleum, chemical & petrochemical sectors to accelerate economic growth. The Central Government will consider and approve applications from the State Governments for establishment of PCPIRs in terms of this policy and also facilitate availability of external physical infrastructure linkages including rail, road, ports, and airports . Similarly, the State Government, applying for a PCPIR, will ensure that all physical infrastructure and utilities linkages under its jurisdiction are provided .

e) to g) The consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre in Kilogram in the country, year-wise and per capita consumption of these items are as follows:

Group	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	Consumption (million Kgs)				
Synthetic Fibres	1717.31	1800.03	1881.67	1890.16	1893.28
Polymers (Plastics)	3826.12	3795.68	4106.93	4177.06	4795.16

Per Capita Consumption (Kgs /person)					
Synthetic Fibres	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7
Polymers (Plastics)	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.4

The policy of the Government is to promote investments in the petrochemical sector both upstream and downstream. Plastic products are manufactured in down stream sector by adding value to the polymers produced by the upstream. Government proposes to increase the per capita consumption by enhancing use of plastic in thrust areas like plasticulture, infrastructure, Information technology, telecommunication, etc.

h) Plastics are chemically inert material and are generally not hazardous substances per-se. Most of the plastics are re-processable and recyclable in nature. It is the indiscriminate littering of plastic material and the absence of organized solid waste/ plastic waste disposal mechanism in urban centers, which is the main problem. Plastic waste recycling is being encouraged by the Government. At present 30% to 40% of used plastics are being recycled which is quite substantial. To avoid generation of non-recyclable plastic waste the Central Government as well as various state Governments have issued Notifications regarding minimum thickness of 20 micron for plastic carry bags.